

## Message Text

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51

ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 INT-05 /030 W

----- 015309

R 151115Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6500

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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PASS OPIC

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, BC

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL SODA ASH INVESTOR

REFERENCE: STATE 078833 (NOTAL)

1. VICE PRESIDENT ROBERT HOLT, GULF RESOURCES AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION, HAD VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO BOTSWANA TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF INVESTING IN SUA PAN PROJECT. AMBASSADOR AND DCM BRIEFED HOLT ON THE GENERAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL OUTLOOK IN BOTSWANA STRESSING THE GOB DESIRE FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PRIVATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. HOLT TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY HIS CONVERSATIONS AND NOTED THAT THE GOB REQUESTED GULF TO MAKE A DECISION BY MID-JUNE REGARDING ITS INVESTMENT INTENTIONS.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH DCM APRIL 11, GEORGE TOUCH (.MINISTRY MINERAL RESOURCES) EMPHASIZED THAT GOB VERY INTERESTED IN HOLT PROPOSALS. HE SUGGEST GOB WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD ACCOMMODATING GULF CONCERNS ON CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT, BECAUSE GOB IS NOT INSENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT TWO CURRENT MAJOR MINERAL PROJECTS IN BOTSWANA HAVE HAD PROBLEMS.

SELEBI-PIKWE COPPER NICKEL MINE HAS HAD ROUGH FINANCIAL SITUATION

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BECAUSE OF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND DE BEERS DIAMOND MINE HAS

BEEN SUBJECT OF UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY BECAUSE OF  
NEGOTIATIONS INITIATED BY GOB TO GAIN LARGER SHARE OF EQUITY.  
THEREFORE, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AN EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL AND  
ATTRACTIVE ARRANGEMENT AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT MINISTRY IS  
IMPRESSED WITH GULF'S CREDENTIALS, ACCORDING TO TOUGH, GOB  
IS PREPARED TO BE QUITE FLEXIBLE.

3. EMBASSY VERY MUCH APPRECIATES OPIC'S EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE  
HOLT TO EXPLORE INVESTMENT POSSIBILITY IN SUA PAN PROJECT. HOLT  
INTENDS TO REPORT HIS IMPRESSIONS AND FINDINGS DIRECT TO OPIC  
AND WILL PROBABLY CALL ON OFFICERS IN STATE AND COMMERCE.  
BOLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, SODIUM, CHEMICALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975GABORO00509  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 73  
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**Office:** ACTION OPIC  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 078833  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

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Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POTENTIAL SODA ASH INVESTOR  
**TAGS:** EINV, BC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006